

Restricting Abortion: Alabama¹

In far too many places throughout this country, it has become extremely difficult for women to safely and legally end a pregnancy. In too many states, politicians have enacted laws that single out the provision of abortion services for restrictions that are more burdensome than those imposed on medically comparable procedures, do not significantly advance women's health or the safety of abortion services, and make abortion services more difficult to access. It's time for politicians to stop interfering with women's personal decision-making. We need a federal law that puts women's health, safety, and rights first. The Women's Health Protection Act does just that.

In Alabama, the following restrictions are among those that would be unlawful under the Women's Health Protection Act once enacted:

- **BAN** on abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy (an unconstitutional pre-viability ban) with unconstitutionally narrow exceptions for when the life or health of a woman is endangered.²
- **BAN** on the use of telemedicine to provide medication abortion, reducing the potential for access to safe, nonsurgical abortion services and eliminating an important way to expand access to many low-income and rural women.³
- **REQUIREMENT** that clinics meet the same strict structural and other regulatory standards as ambulatory surgical facilities, essentially becoming "small hospitals," despite those standards being completely unrelated to ensuring patient safety.⁴
- **REQUIREMENT** that abortion providers have admitting privileges at a local hospital, a medically unnecessary requirement that is designed to prevent qualified, experienced physicians from providing care to their patients.⁵
- **REQUIREMENT** that the woman undergo an ultrasound before obtaining an abortion—even when medically unnecessary—and that the provider offer the woman the opportunity to see the image, whether or not the provider believes it is appropriate.⁶

"I support the Women's Health Protection Act because women across the country are losing the ability to make their own very personal, private health care decisions."

-Alabaman Dr. Willie Parker, testifying before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee

(Endnotes)

¹ The restrictions highlighted herein are examples of the types of restrictions that the [Women's Health Protection Act](#) seeks to invalidate. This fact sheet is not intended as a comprehensive guide to abortion restrictions in Alabama.

² ALA. CODE § 26-23B-5.

³ ALA. CODE § 26-23E-7.

⁴ ALA. CODE § 26-23E-9.

⁵ ALA. CODE § 26-23E-4(c), *declared unconstitutional as applied by Planned Parenthood Se., Inc. v. Strange*, 30 F. Supp. 3d 1330, 1380 (M.D. Ala. 2014).

⁶ ALA. CODE. § 26-23A-4.